



NOVEL HUMAN PROTEASES AND
POLYNUCLEOTIDES ENCODING THE SAME

The present application claims the benefit of U.S.

5 Provisional Application Number 60/171,566 which was filed on
December 22, 1999 and is herein incorporated by reference in its
entirety.

1. INTRODUCTION

The present invention relates to the discovery,
10 identification, and characterization of novel human
polynucleotides encoding proteins sharing sequence similarity with
mammalian proteases. The invention encompasses the described
polynucleotides, host cell expression systems, the encoded
protein, fusion proteins, polypeptides and peptides, antibodies to
15 the encoded proteins and peptides, and genetically engineered
animals that either lack or over express the disclosed sequences,
antagonists and agonists of the proteins, and other compounds that
modulate the expression or activity of the proteins encoded by the
disclosed polynucleotides that can be used for diagnosis, drug
20 screening, clinical trial monitoring and the treatment of
physiological disorders.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Proteases cleave protein substrates as part of degradation,
25 maturation, and secretory pathways within the body. Proteases
have been associated with, *inter alia*, regulating development,
modulating cellular processes, fertility, and infectious disease.

3. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

30 The present invention relates to the discovery,
identification, and characterization of nucleotides that encode
novel human proteins, and the corresponding amino acid sequences
of these proteins. The novel human proteins (NHPs) described for
the first time herein share structural similarity with animal